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HYDERABAD, SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2010.

**NOTIFICATIONS RELATING TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF
PANCHAYAT RAJ**

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STATE ELECTION COMMISSION

REGISTRATION OF POLITICAL PARTY “TELANGANA LOK SATTA PARTY”.

Order No. 142/SEC-L/2010.—

1. Sri K. Dharma Reddy, President of the “Telangana Loksatta Party” has applied for registration of his political party under the Registration of Political Parties and Allotment of Symbols Order, 2001 with the State Election Commission, AP on 15.02.2010.
2. The State Election Commission examined the application and having satisfied with the application is in accordance with the conditions stipulated in the Symbols Order, 2001, set in motion the process of registration and a public notice was issued on 19.02.2010 by the State Election Commission, AP calling for objections from the general public for registration of the said political party and the notice was published in ‘Eenadu’ daily dated 23.02.2010 and also in the extra ordinary issue of AP Gazette No. 7, dated 22.02.2010.
3. The State Election Commission received objections from:
 1. Sri Nakka Sanjeev Kumar Goud, R/o H.No. 4-1-110, Hayathnagar, R.R. District.
 2. Sri V. Lakshman Balaji, State General Secretary, Lok Satta Party.
 3. Sri P. Kodanda Rama Rao, Kalyani Hospital, Stadium Road, Hanmakonda, Warangal-506 001.
 4. Sri P. Raja Narsimha Chary, R/o No. 22/24, Giri Street, West Mambalam, Chennai-33.
4. In the above context, the State Election Commission gave notice to the above objectors and the applicant for hearing to be held on 06.04.2010 at 11.30 AM.

5. The State Election Commissioner heard the objectors and also the applicant on 06.04.2010 at 12.00 noon. The State Election Commissioner has also given an opportunity to them to submit their written submissions on or before 13.04.2010. Sri K. Dharma Reddy and Sri P. Kodanda Rama Rao have submitted their written objections supporting their contentions. In their written submissions they did not make any new ground.

6. As seen from the objections raised in various petitions, the main focus is on the name of the “Telangana Loksatta Party,” which is contended to be identical with the name of the already registered “Loksatta Party” and that identical names would cause confusion was particularly emphasized by the Loksatta Party.

7. After hearing the parties and after perusing the names of various political parties recognized or registered by the Election Commission of India and also registered with the State Election Commission, Andhra Pradesh, it is found that political parties with identical names are innumerable in number with only minor modifications. For example, there are National parties recognized with Election Commission of India like; Communist Party of India and Communist Party of India (Marxist); Indian National Congress and Nationlist Congress party, also State Parties like; Kerala Congress, Kerala Congress (M), and registered/unrecognised parties like; Kerala Congress (B), Kerala Congress (Jacob), Kerala Congress Secular, and also parties which are either recognized or registered are having names like; Telugu Desam Party, Anna Telugu Desam Party, N.T.R. Telugu Desam Party (L.P.).

8. There are also State parties recognized with Election Commission of India like Janata Dal (United), Janata Dal (Secular), Biju Janata Dal; All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and Marumalaarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. There are atleast half a dozen parties registered with the State Election Commission of Andhra Pradesh with their names starting with Telangana which include, Telangana Congress Party and Telangana Communist Party. Likewise; there are innumerable registered unrecognized parties registered with both the Election Commission of India and also the State Election Commission, Andhra Pradesh with more or less identical names and a few such instances are shown below:

Akhil Bharatiya Lokraj party
 Akhil Bharatiya Loktantra party
 Akhil Bharatiya Janata Sahara party
 Akhil Bharatiya Janata Vikas party
 Bharatiya Jan Shakti
 Bharatiya Jan Sabha
 Bharatiya Samaj Dal
 Bharatiya Seva Dal
 Bharatiya Shramik Dal
 People's Democratic Front
 People's Democratic Alliance
 People's Democratic Forum
 People's Democratic Movement
 Republican Party of India
 Republican Party of India (Democratic)
 Republican Party of India (Kamble)
 Republican Party of India (Sivaraj)
 Republican Party of India (A)

9. So far as the present case is concerned, Loksatta party is a registered party and the present application for registration is for Telangana Loksatta party. The word Telangana puts an accent on the interests of the Telangana people and its is on that count different from the present Loksatta party. Registration of another political party like, Telangana Loksatta party whose ideology is focused on the Telangana region is not objectionable. Therefore, the similarity which is made a ground for objection by Sri Nakka Sanjeev Kumar is also not tenable. Whereas, Sri P. Raja Narasimha Chary has made only a suggestion. The other objections raised by Sri P. Kodanda Rama Rao is that the registration of this Telangana Loksatta party is intended to hijack the good will which was brought about by the Loksatta party by adding the prefix Telangana. The State Election Commission is also not satisfied with this line of thinking because there are several political parties in which the common names like Janata Dal, Congress, Communist, Republican Party of India, Telugu Desam etc., are existing and it cannot be said that one political party

hijacks the ideology of another political party simply because a common word exists. Further, the addition of the word Telangana makes its ideology distinct from the ideology of Loksatta party. The Loksatta party's ideology is not limited to the Telangana region while the ideology focused by the Telangana Loksatta party relates exclusively to the problems of the Telangana area. Therefore, the identity crisis which is projected as a serious objection whittles down and cannot be countenanced.

10. The State Election Commission is therefore of the view that the main thrust of the objection for the addition of the word Telangana to the newly proposed Telangana Loksatta party will not in any way create confusion in the mind of the voters nor does it affect the present Loksatta party in any way particularly in respect of its separate identity.

11. The State Election Commission, therefore, sees no force in the objections raised by those who are opposed to the registration of the Telangana Loksatta party. It is, therefore, decided to reject those objections and register the Telangana Loksatta party as it satisfies all the norms under the Symbol Order, 2001.

12. Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred under Article 243K read with article 243 ZA of the Constitution of India and Paragraph 3 of the Registration of Political Parties and Allotment of Symbols Order, 2001, the State Election Commission, hereby registers the **“Telangana Loksatta Party”** as a political party without a reserved symbol, subject to the following condition;

“that the registration shall not entitle the party for reservation of any exclusive symbol for it. However, the candidates duly setup by this party in local body elections (held on party basis) will be entitled to preferential treatment over independent candidates in allotment of free symbols under paragraph 5A (a) of the Registration of Political Parties and Allotment of Symbols Order, 2001” and the party shall also open bank account within 7 days from the date of receipt of the order as required under para 4 (a) (viii) of Symbol Order and furnish the details thereof to the State Election Commission”.

13. Under paragraph 3 (9) (a) of the said Order, the party shall communicate to the Commission, without delay, any change in its name, head office, office-bearers, address or in any other material information.

Secunderabad,
21-04-2010.

G.M. RAMESH KUMAR,
Secretary (FAC).

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